

The BUZZ WORD

Volume

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13

May

2022



AMERICANS HAVE COME TO RECOGNIZE THE BRAVERY AND HEROISM OF THOSE WHO FOUGHT IN VIETNAM. NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY PROVIDES AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT ON THEIR SERVICE.

www.vvh.vermont.gov



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

Fulfilling the Promise

The Vermont Veterans' Home was established in Bennington in 1884. It is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor. The VVH offers a complete range of specialized care services for its residents. VVH goals focus on ensuring the dignity, independence, and the highest possible care and quality of life for each resident.

VVH is licensed to meet all levels of care for its residents and the VVH's departments and staff work together to provide those levels of care.

For any Further Questions, Please Contact:

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<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

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From the Administrator—Melissa Jackson

To Our VVH Family and Friends,

Despite the ups and downs of community prevalence of COVID-19 in Bennington, we continue to have all twice weekly PCR testing return with negative results. We continue to monitor the community transmission rate and change the PPE our staff is using based on these numbers. We are currently wearing N95 masks and face shields.



We are planning a COVID Booster Clinic for Veterans, Members and Staff in the coming weeks. Residents and staff who would like their first or 2nd booster will be able to receive these at the clinics.

As I mentioned in my article last month, the warmer weather has resulted in many of our Veterans and visitors being outside more often. Please be mindful of the speed limit and double check your mirrors when backing up. Our Veterans and Members do not always stay on the sidewalk as they move about the grounds.

Recently we discovered empty beer bottles in a resident's room so I thought this would be a good time to review our policies on alcohol consumption at VVH. Any Veteran or Member desiring an alcoholic beverage must have a doctor's order to do so. I know this seems strange, but it is required by the regulations that oversee the facility. This also ensures that the Veteran, Member, or family member is aware of any potential interactions with any medications an individual is taking. For safety and liability reasons, visitors are not permitted to consume alcohol during their visits to VVH. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

One final reminder, if you bring in new clothes, shoes, electronics, or other personal belongings for your loved one, please let their Social Worker or Nurse know what items you have brought in. This will ensure the item is labeled and documented in the event it is lost.

Take Care,

Melissa



Melissa A. Jackson, MBA, FACHCA

Chief Executive Officer

www.Vvh.vermont.gov

From the Deputy Administrator
Asa Morin



As the weather slowly gets warmer, we continue to plan for the Spring and Summer. As we have shared, we are hoping to bring back several events this summer that have always brought joy to the Veterans and Members.

The Car Show is scheduled for June 18th and as it gets closer, we will be providing information regarding safety protocols that will be in place for the event. We will be having modified cookouts from the VFW and VVA where, unfortunately, we will not be able to have all the social aspects of the past, but our staff will be able to deliver the cookout food to the Veterans and Members.

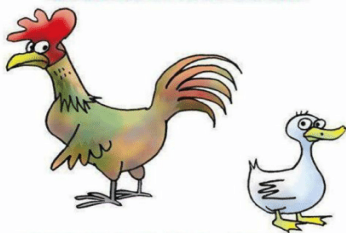
We are excited that in lieu of the annual Steak Dinner held at the Bennington Elks, the Elks will be preparing the steak dinner at the VVH to serve to the Veterans and Members. This is tentatively scheduled for the last weekend in May.

Finally, we are scheduling several outdoor musical events. As the dates and times are solidified, we will send out the information in hopes that Veterans and Members can enjoy these with their loved ones if possible.

Asa

Asa Morin, MSW, LICSW, LNHA COO/Deputy Administrator (802) 447-6544 asa.morin@vermont.gov

A duck was about to cross the
road when a chicken
looked at him and said....



"DONT DO IT MAN.... YOU WILL
NEVER HEAR THE END OF IT!"

Q: What type
of bee can't
make up its
mind?

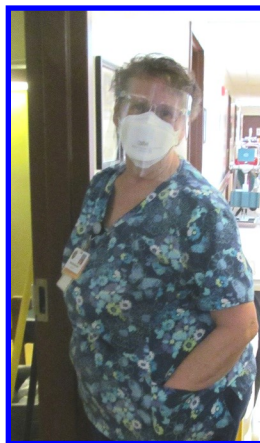


A: A maybe.

Grand
parents.com
Grand to the grand

facebook.com/grandparentson.com

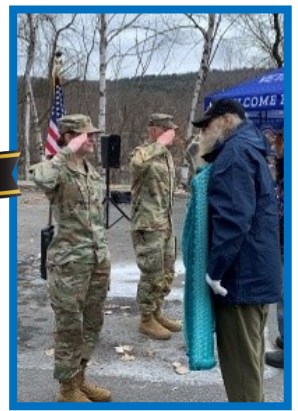
**Custodial, Housekeeping and Laundry Staff
Taking care of the Veterans and Members**



A great big
THANK YOU



Vietnam War



Vietnam Veterans from the VVH traveled to White River Junction on March 31 to participate in the remembrance of their service during the War in Vietnam. Veterans and VVH staff were treated to a luncheon after the ceremony.

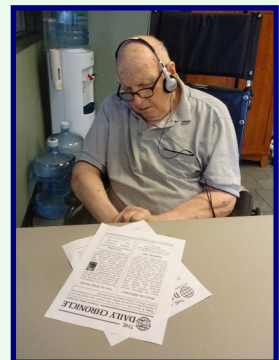


Puzzles

good activities
for cold and
rainy spring
days



Current
events
or
Historical
facts...



HOWDY FOLKS,

Chaplain's Corner

This is a good time to thank God for creating the four seasons, especially the Spring season. We've finally made it through the winter and the mud season. Looking out our kitchen window we notice the pussy willows beginning to burst and patches of green grass are quite visible. The bird feeder is abuzz with blue jays, cardinals, chickadees, red wing black birds and doves. I do love the doves, they are so gentle and do not get aggressive like some others. Doves do their eating on the ground, do not bother the other birds, and come and go without being noticed. The blue jays are very bossy, they shush the others away until they get their fill and then the others are left to eat in peace. Soon we'll see the trees budding and flowers abound. It's a wonderful time of the year, praise God.

I hope everyone reflected on the great entrance Jesus made into Jerusalem and realized on Good Friday He took our sins to the cross. We can never repay that sacrifice He made for all of us. And even more meaningful is the fact that He gave us the gift of everlasting life after death. Our bodies will return to dust, but our souls will reside with God forever. Praise God for His wisdom, love and blessings.



I hope to be able to return to the Veterans' Home to visit everyone and bring God's messages.

Please pray for our troops serving around the world.

God bless, Chaplain Ken

INSPIRATIONAL DONATION



Beverly Madden of Hyde Park, VT was going to be celebrating her 80th birthday and wanted to do something special to commemorate the event.

Rather than getting gifts for herself, she asked family and friends to purchase items for the Veterans and Members that were listed on the Wish List in the Buzzword.

Little did she know the generosity of her circle of friends and family would provide so many gifts. They were as thoughtful and generous as Beverly.

Pictured with Beverly, far right, are Asa and Melissa accepting the bountiful donations courtesy of a birthday request.



VOLLEYBALL ANYONE?



**I ALWAYS FIND
SOMETHING TO KEEP
ME BUSY**



MEMORIAL DAY HISTORY

May the wreaths they have won never wither, Nor the star of their glory grow dim!

Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union veterans — the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) — established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared it should be May 30. It is believed the date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country.

The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery and the ceremonies centered around the mourning-draped veranda of the Arlington mansion, once the home of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Various Washington officials, including Gen. and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, presided over the ceremonies. After speeches, children from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphan Home and members of the GAR made their way through the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers and singing hymns.

Local Observances Claim To Be First Local springtime tributes to the Civil War dead already had been held in various places. One of the first occurred in Columbus, Miss., April 25, 1866, when a group of women visited a cemetery to decorate the graves of Confederate soldiers who had fallen in battle at Shiloh. Nearby were the graves of Union soldiers, neglected because they were the enemy. Disturbed at the sight of the bare graves, the women placed some of their flowers on those graves, as well. Approximately 25 places have been named in connection with the origin of Memorial Day. Official Birthplace was declared in 1966, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, NY, the "birthplace" of Memorial Day.

By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30 throughout the Nation. State legislatures passed proclamations designating the day, and the Army and Navy adopted regulations for proper observance at their facilities. It was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May, as were some other federal holidays.

Gen. Logan's order for his posts to decorate graves in 1868 "with the choicest flowers of springtime" urged: "We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. ... Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic." The crowd attending the first Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery was approximately the same size as those that attend today's observance, about 5,000 people. Then, as now, small American flags were placed on each grave — a tradition followed at many national cemeteries today. The origins of special services to honor those who die in war can be found in antiquity. The Athenian leader Pericles offered a tribute to the fallen heroes of the Peloponnesian War over 24 centuries ago that could be applied today to the 1.1 million Americans who have died in the nation's wars: "Not only are they commemorated by columns and inscriptions, but there dwells also an unwritten memorial of them, graven not on stone but in the hearts of men."

To ensure the sacrifices of America's fallen heroes are never forgotten, in December 2000, the U.S. Congress passed and the President signed into law "The National Moment of Remembrance Act," P.L. 106-579, creating the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance. The commission's charter is to "encourage the people of the United States to give something back to their country, which provides them so much freedom and opportunity" by encouraging and coordinating commemorations in the United States of Memorial Day and the National Moment of Remembrance. **The National Moment of Remembrance encourages all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for a minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation.** As Moment of Remembrance founder Carmella LaSpada states: "It's a way we can all help put the memorial back in Memorial Day."

On behalf of the Veterans and Members, we sincerely thank the following for their generous donations:



Phyllis and Rhonda Roberts

Steve Leach

Bill Hartz

Beverly Madden

Pittstown Chapter Home Bureau c/o
Florence Bastidas

GE Aviation—Rutland

Anonymous

The Ketchum Family

The Brown Family

In Memory of Sam Cottrell

Dorris Cottrell



Thank you for all your donations. It is nice to be remembered.

On behalf of all the residents, I want to thank the staff, too, for all the good things they do for us everyday.

Happy Nursing Home Week to them.

VVH Staff Recognition Years of Service

ACTIVITIES

Michelle Hunt — 17 years
Samantha Cross — 5 years

ADMINISTRATION

Asa Morin, COO — 8 years
Marion Ryberg — 10 years

CLEANING/HOUSEKEEPING/ LAUNDRY

Rick Cottrell — 17 years
Belinda Matte — 11 years

DIETARY

Carla Lambert — 9 years

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

John Boulger — 17 years
Jon Endres — 8 years
Anthony Antonio — 5 years
Stephen Bennett — 3 years
Robert LaBrake — 1 year

FINANCE

Althea Kane—5 years

NURSING

Melissa Walsh — 29 years
Courtney Zazzaro — 13 years
Jessica Degree-Muise — 8 years
Danielle Record — 8 years
Christine Weeden — 8 years
Shannyn MacVicar — 3 years
Tara Bills — 2 years

SOCIAL SERVICES

Aisling Taft — 1 year

**ONE TEAM
ONE SPIRIT**

THE BUZZ WORD

Three ways for you to receive the Vermont Veterans' Home monthly newsletter:

- ♦ Vermont Veterans' Home website:
www.vvh.vermont.gov
Click on About Our Home
Click on Newsletters
 - ♦ Email
 - ♦ Mailing List (postal)
- To be added to our lists please contact:

The Buzz Word
Vermont Veterans' Home
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201

Robyn Boland
(802) 447-6523
Email: Robyn.Boland@vermont.gov

VVH WISH LIST

I-Pod Shuffles
(4th Generation)



Newspaper Subscriptions
Bingo Prizes Crafts
Neck Pillows Stamps
CD Players I-Tune Cards
Body Pillows Costume Jewelry
Outdoor Benches
Two pocket front wheelchair/walker bags

Please make check for monetary donations out to Vermont Veterans' Home:

***Vermont Veterans' Home
Business Office
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201***

**Your donations are gratefully accepted.
THANK YOU**

Due to COVID-19, we are not able to accept: books, CDs, puzzles or used clothing. We will keep you posted when changes are made. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

DONATION INFORMATION

Your donations are gratefully accepted. Please make check out to Vermont Veterans' Home:

**Vermont Veterans' Home
Business Office
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201**

Please indicate to which fund(s) you are donating:

Members Assistance:

Directly to Veterans/Members
Furniture, Haircuts, Clothing
Other personal needs

Namaste Program Fund:

Oils for relaxation
Supplies, Equipment

Unrestricted Fund:

Facility equipment
Large purchase

Activities Fund:

Entertainment

Music & Memory Fund:

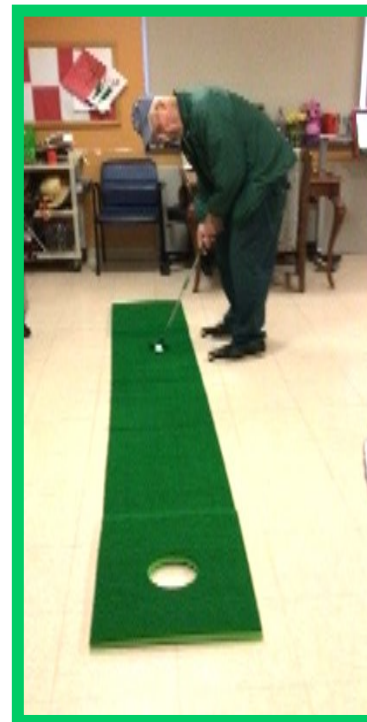
iPods, Headphones, iTunes cards

NEW: Veteran's Mobility Trail

Monetary donations toward
a paved walkway around
the perimeter of the VVH

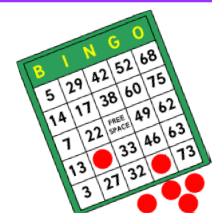
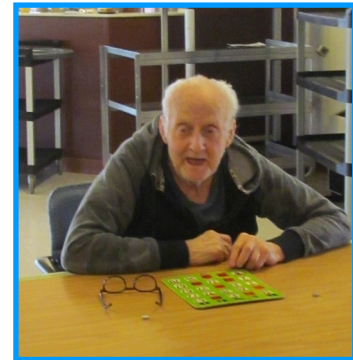
The
Practice
Green
helps to
keep
putting
skills
sharp.

Thanks
for the
donation.





Yahtzee - Fun? Or Competition? Keeping tabs on the roll of the dice





Disclaimer: Tentative and will depend on restrictions and State guidelines.

CAR SHOW

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

(Rain date, Sunday June 19)

Sponsored by
The State Line Car Club &
The Vermont Veterans' Home

beep!
beep!

***"FULFILLING THE PROMISE: Caring for the
Veterans of Vermont and their families"***

Vermont Veterans' Home
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201

